

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney for applicant Karen A. Fitzsimmons on 05/01/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A patch panel module, comprising:

(a) a one-piece housing having a generally L-shaped construction, the L-shaped construction of the one-piece housing being defined by a face plate and a housing side, the face plate having a front opening, the housing including a handle extending outward from the housing side;

b) a module card having a length that extends between a front end of the module card and a rear end, the module card being attached to the housing by a snap-fit connection, the module card including a front connector positioned at the front end of the module card adjacent to the front opening of the housing, and a rear connector positioned at the rear end of the module card;

c) wherein the housing side of the L-shaped construction extends less than a substantial majority of the length of the module card such that a substantial portion of

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the rear end of the module card is exposed, the exposed substantial portion extending from a top edge of the module card to a bottom edge of the module card;

d) *Wherein the face plate of the L-shaped construction is oriented generally perpendicular to the module card and the housing side is oriented generally parallel to the module card, and wherein the housing defines an aperture formed between the face plate and the housing side for viewing an LED positioned on the module card.*

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A patch panel module, comprising:

a) a housing including a face plate and a housing side, the face plate and housing side being oriented generally perpendicular to one another, the face plate including at least one front opening, *the housing having a handle extending outward from the housing side;*

b) a module card having a front connector located at a front end of the module card and a rear connector located at a rear end of the module card, the front connector being positioned adjacent to the front opening of the housing, the module card being secured to the housing by a retaining structure, the retaining structure including:

i) a flexible latch formed on the housing side; and

ii) a hole formed in the module card;

iii) wherein the flexible latch engages the hole of the module card to provide a snap-fit connection between the housing and the module card;

c) wherein the housing side of the housing extends less than a substantial majority of a length defined between the front end and the rear end of the module card, such that a substantial portion of the rear end of the module card is exposed, the exposed substantial portion extending from a top edge of the module card to a bottom edge of the module card;

d) wherein the housing defines an aperture formed between the face plate and the housing side for reviewing an LED positioned on the module card.

7. (Currently Amended) The module of claim 1, wherein the snap-fit connection includes at least one latch formed on the housing side of the L-shaped construction, the latch being arranged to engage a hole formed in the module card.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a patch panel module, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a one-piece molded housing having a generally L-shaped construction and a module card having a length extending between a front end and a rear end, the one-piece housing including a face plate with a front opening, the module card including a front connector and a rear connector;

b) orienting the module card in relation to the housing such that a flexible latch formed on the housing is positioned adjacent to a hole formed in the card;

c) pressing the module card and housing toward one another to interconnect housing and the card in relation to one another, including flexing the latch until the latch snap-fits within the hole of the card; and

d) wherein the housing extends less than a substantial majority of the length of the module card such that a substantial portion of the rear end of the module card is exposed when the module card is interconnected to the housing, the exposed substantial portion extending from a top edge of the module card to a bottom edge of the module card.

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17. (Canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-16 and 18-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In response to remarks and claim amendments made in Applicant's Amendment filed on 04/10/2008, Applicant's argument is persuasive. The cited references in combination of the prior art of record fail to teach or suggest the combination of the limitations as claims 1 (similar to claim 8) such as "a one-piece housing having an L-shaped construction; the L-shaped construction extends less than a substantial majority of the length of the module card to expose the rear end of the module card, the exposed substantial portion extending from a top edge of the module card to a bottom edge of the module card; and an aperture formed between the face plate and the housing side for reviewing an LED

positioned on the module card." These limitations, in combination with other limitation as claimed in the claims 1 (or similar to claim 8), was neither found to be disclosed, nor suggested by the prior art. Claims 2-3 and 6-7 depend on the claim 1. Claims 9 and 11-12 depend on the claim 8. Claim method steps 13-16 and 18-19 are allowed due to the apparatus structure of the claims 1 and/or claim 8 has been allowed. Amended claims have been considered and upon conclusion of a comprehensive search of the prior art, the office indicates that the claims, as amended, are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean A. Reichard can be reached on 571-272-2800, ext. 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Hung S. Bui/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2841
05/02/2008.

Application Number**Application/Control No.**

10/714,583

Examiner

HUNG S. BUI

**Applicant(s)/Patent under
Reexamination**

CLARK ET AL.

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